

STATE RANKING

Virginia had the 15th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Virginia, 9% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Virginia, 8% of the state population was Latino.³ Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Virginia was 27, compared to 40 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Virginia, 28% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 44% of all adults.⁵

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, Virginia can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in Virginia.

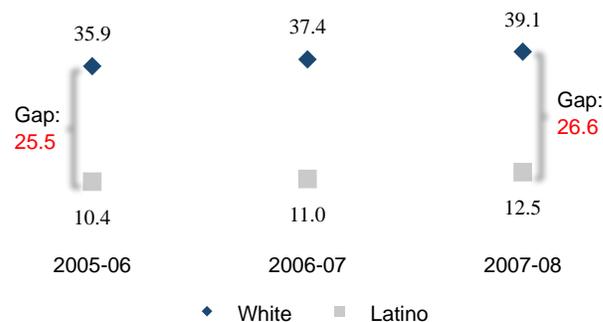
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Latino and white cohorts in Virginia in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

Virginia	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	43.6	56.7	13.1
Completions per 100 FTE Students	14.5	18.0	3.5
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	12.5	39.1	26.6

Graduation rates - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman
Completions per 100 FTE students – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)
Completions Relative to the Population in Need – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



¹ U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. [www.nces.ed.gov/ccd](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/)

³ U.S. Census 2010: Virginia. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. www.census.gov/acs

⁵ Lumina Foundation for Education. *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States.* www.luminafoundation.org

Degrees Conferred

Another metric to benchmark college completion is to track the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in Virginia increased about 21% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 6%.
- among the 50 states, Virginia ranked 11th for the increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos: 2006-2008* at www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in Virginia showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following is an example of an institutional program with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

The Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program - Northern Virginia Community College

The Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program was developed to increase access to and success in higher education for academically capable, at-risk students in Northern Virginia in a sustainable, cost-effective format. Over 85% of program participants in cohorts 1 through 3 transitioned successfully into college within one year of high school graduation. Latino students in the program have an 86% transition rate from high school into higher education. The first-to-second semester retention rate is 90% and the yearly retention rate is 81% for Latino students, both Latino rates are equivalent to the program wide rates. Over 98% of Pathway students earned college credit in the first year vs. a national student average of 47% earning college credit in the 12 years immediately after high school graduation (NEL). Also, 70% of Pathway students were in good academic standing after the first semester vs. a national average of 40-50% of at-risk students in good academic standing after one semester (Lumina Foundation). (<http://www.nvcc.edu/academics/pathway/index.html>)

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

Ensuring America's Future partners in Virginia:

National Association for College Admission Counseling: www.nacacnet.org

National Hispana Leadership Institute: www.nhli.org

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org